

Application No. 10/772,236

Attorney Docket No. XA-10032

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

It is noted, initially, that the outstanding Office Action fails to treat Claims 22 and 23 on the merits. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the finality of the Office Action be withdrawn and that all pending claims be addressed on the merits in the next official action.

Applicant notes, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 2, 4, 7, 8, 10-12, 18 and 19. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to incorporate aspects of Claim 8 (now canceled), thus rendering all of Claims 1-7 allowable.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 13-17, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hasegawa (US 6,351,886 B1). The amendments discussed above render the rejection moot as to Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6. As to independent Claims 9 and 17, and their respective dependents, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 9 and 17 recite, inter alia, an outer drum portion having an outer peripheral cylindrical portion joined to a shaft portion through a disk portion, which is oblique with respect to an axis of the shaft portion such that the outer peripheral cylindrical portion is offset in

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an axial direction with respect to the shaft portion so that it is not opposite in a radial direction to a part of the shaft portion that is worked in step (b). Hasegawa fails to disclose or suggest this feature of Applicant's invention and therefore cannot support the rejection of Claims 9 and 17 under § 102(b), nor a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Indeed, the outstanding rejection makes no attempt to address the aforementioned features of Claims 9 and 17.

Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 9 and 17 is untenable and should be withdrawn. Claims 9 and 17 should therefore be allowed. Claims 13-16 and 20-21 depend from Claims 9 and 17, respectively, and should be allowed for at least the same reasons.

With regard to the objection to Claims 20 and 21, both claims depend from Claim 18, which depends from independent Claim 17. Claims 22 and 23 provide corresponding protection dependent directly from Claim 17. Claims 20-23 are all correct as previously presented.

Applicant respectfully requests that this application now be passed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (XA-10032) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing

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of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

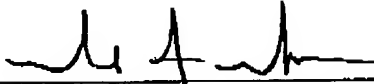
MWS:MAM:cbt

Miles & Stockbridge, P.C.
1751 Pinnacle Drive
Suite 500
McLean, Virginia 22102-3833
(703) 903-9000

September 5, 2006

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By:



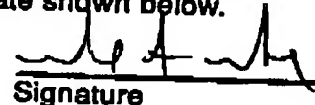
Mitchell W. Shapiro
Reg. No. 31,568

Michael A. Minter
Reg. No. 58,797

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